

Booklist | 2022

Boston Public Library
Asian/Pacific American
Heritage Month

Rajani LaRocca



Hung Liu



Malinda Lo



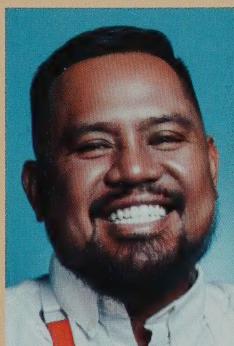
Tammy Duckworth



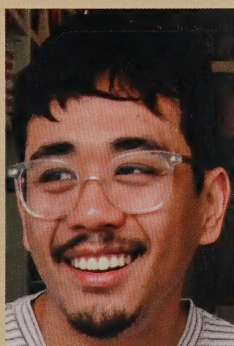
Albert Samaha



Sheldon Simeon



Anthony Veasna So



Ellen Oh



The Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Booklist is a list of recent books concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience.

It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month each year.

This list was compiled by Boston Public Library staff:

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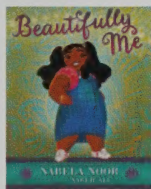
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Branch Librarian at the Brighton Branch Library

Monica Shin

Digital Services Librarian

PICTURE BOOKS



Beautifully Me

Nabela Noor
(illustrated by
Nabi H. Ali)

Zubi's excitement about the first day of school

is ruined by critical comments about weight. When her family realizes what has happened, they reassure her, "Beauty is how you make people feel and the kind things you do."

J PICTURE NOOR N 



Dumplings for Lili

Melissa Iwai

Lili is about to make baos with her Nai Nai when they run out cabbage.

As Lili makes her way to borrow cabbage from her

neighbors, the other grandmothers in the apartment building ask her to fetch ingredients for them, too.

J PICTURE IWAI M 



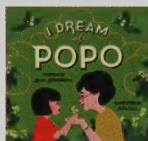
Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

Joanna Ho (illustrated
by **Dung Ho**)

A Chinese American girl sees more than the shape

of her eyes. Author Ho's lyrical narrative reveals how each pair of eyes looks and what they convey.

J PICTURE HO J 



I Dream of Popo

Livia Blackburne
(illustrated by **Julia Kuo**)

A young girl moves from Taiwan to San Diego, where she learns English at school and only sees her grandmother over video chat. Despite the distance and linguistic barriers, her connection to her Popo remains as strong as ever.

J PICTURE BLACKBUR L 



Laxmi's Mooch

Shelly Anand
(illustrated by
Nabi H. Ali)

Laxmi is embarrassed when classmates point out her "mooch", a sprinkling of hairs on her upper lip. After her parents' reassurance—and a dream of tigers—she's ready to accept and embrace her body.

J PICTURE ANAND S  



Niki Nakayama:
A Chef's Tale in 13
Bites

Jamie Michalak
& **Debbi Michiko Florence**
(illustrated by **Yuko Jones**)

Underestimated because of her gender, Michelin-starred chef Nakayama proves her doubters wrong with her innovative interpretation of Japanese cuisine in this biography that follows the 13-course structure of a traditional kaiseki meal.

J BIOG TX649.N328 M53 2021 

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



Roots and Wings: How Shahzia Sikander Became an Artist

**Shahzia Sikander &
Amy Novesky**
(illustrated by Hannah
Barczyk)

Artist Shahzia Sikander recounts how growing up as a tomboy in a multicultural home in Pakistan inspired her to become an artist.

J BIOG N7310.73.S57 A2 2021x



When Lola Visits Michelle Sterling (illustrated by Aaron Asis)

"How do I know summer is here?" This picture book beautifully depicts Filipino culture and intergenerational familial bonds, filled with aromas of traditional Filipino food including a special mango jam made by Lola.

J PICTURE STERLING M 



Where Three Oceans Meet

Rajani Laroocca
(illustrated by

Archana Sreenivasan)

During a trip to the very tip of India with her mother and Pati, Sejal discovers beautiful scenery and family history. As they reach their destination where three oceans join as one, the three generations also join together.

J PICTURE LAROCCA R  



Wishes Mượn Thị Văn (illustrated by Victo Ngai)

In the middle of the night, a family packs up what they can carry and leaves their homeland. In only seventy-five words, author Van captures the fear and loss of family detention and separation, but also hope and new beginnings.

J PICTURE VAN M 

CHAPTER BOOKS

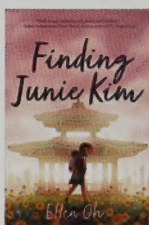


Clues to the Universe Christina Li

Aspiring rocket scientist Ro is devastated by the death of her father, a fellow space buff. When a science class mix-up

brings artistic Benji into her orbit, she is determined to help her new friend find his missing father.

J FICTION LI C  



Finding Junie Kim Ellen Oh

Alienated by racist bullying in her mostly white school, Junie throws herself into an assignment to learn about her Korean

grandparents' heritage. As she learns about their courage and tenacity, she is able to let her own shine through.

J FICTION OH E  

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



Jukebox **Nidhi Chanani**

When Shaheen and her cousin Tannaz discover a mysterious jukebox, they hope it will help them find Shaheen's father. But

when the music starts, they are ripped out of their world and transported into music history!

J GRAPHIC JUKEBOX  



The Legend of Auntie Po **Shing Yin Khor**

In this National Book Award graphic novel finalist, thirteen-year-old Mei reimagines the

myths of Paul Bunyan as starring a Chinese heroine while she works in a Sierra Nevada logging camp in 1885.

J GRAPHIC LEGEND OF AUNTIE  



The Many Meanings of Meilan **Andrea Wang**

Meilan moves from Boston's Chinatown to the Midwest, where she becomes many different

versions of herself and decides that there are many facets to her identity.

J FICTION WANG A  

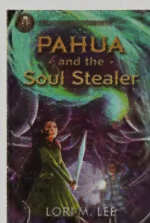


Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey **Erin Entrada Kelly**

Marisol, an imaginative girl who likes to name inanimate objects, learns

to face her fears at her own pace in this beginning chapter book for elementary grade readers.

J FICTION KELLY E  

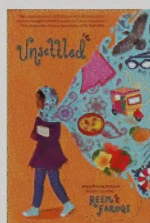


Pahua and the Soul Stealer **Lori M. Lee**

While trying to rescue her brother's soul from the spirit world, eleven-year-old Pahua discovers she is

the reincarnation of a legendary shaman warrior.

J SCIFI FANTASY LEE L  



Unsettled **Reem Faruqi**

This illustrated novel in verse follows Nurah, a Muslim girl from Karachi, who must move with her family to Peachtree City,

Georgia. Although she faces many challenges in America, she eventually begins to feel at home.

J FICTION FARUQI R  

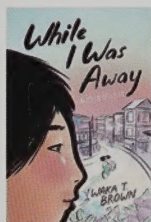


We Belong
Cookie Haponia Everman

When Stella and Luna ask their mother to tell them a bedtime story, she weaves her own family's

immigration history together with Tagalog mythology in beautiful free verse.

J FICTION EVERMAN C  



While I Was Away
Waka T. Brown

In a vivid memoir of culture shock and finding your own identity, Brown recounts being sent at age twelve to live with her

strict grandmother in Tokyo in order to improve her Japanese.

J BIOG PZ71.B7976 Whi 2021x 

TEEN

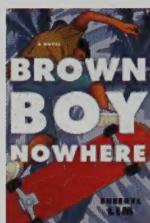


American Betiya
Anuradha D. Rajurkar

Rani is passionate about her traditional Indian culture, but she has one secret from her family: Oliver. When his home

life begins to fall apart, Rani must reckon with the challenges of maintaining her own identity in an interracial relationship.

TEEN FICTION RAJURKAR A 

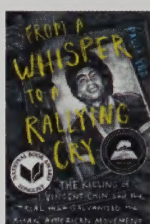


Brown Boy Nowhere
Sheeryl Lim

Sixteen-year-old Filipino American Angelo Rivera moves from his San Diego home to a boring land-locked town in the middle

of nowhere, where, as the only Asian in his all-white school, he's labeled 'brown boy'.

TEEN FICTION LIM S



From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement

Paula Yoo

The 1982 murder of Vincent Chin sparked outrage across the United States. Yoo recounts the circumstances surrounding Chin's death, the subsequent trials, and the impact on the fledgling Asian American movement.

TEEN E184.A75 Y56 2021  



How We Fall Apart
Katie Zhao

The murder of Jamie Ruan upends the world of Nancy Kuo and her friends: all classmates and ex-friends of Ja-

mie's, now suspects. As the mysterious "Proctor" exposes their secrets on social media, they race to find Jamie's killer.

TEEN MYSTERY ZHAO K 

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook



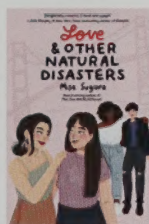
Last Night at the Telegraph Club

Malinda Lo

Seventeen-year-old Lily Hu can't remember when the feeling took root—the desire to look, to

move closer, to touch—but it bloomed the moment she and Kathleen Miller walked under the flashing neon sign of a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club.

TEEN FICTION LO M  



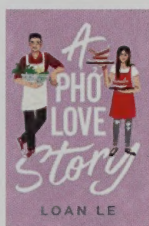
Love & Other Natural Disasters

Misa Sugiura

Nozomi's plan to reinvent herself during a summer internship in San Francisco after a humiliating rejection takes a sharp left turn. Willow

is only using Nozomi to make her ex jealous, but can their fake relationship lead to real love?

TEEN FICTION SUGIURA M  



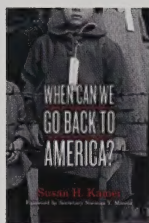
A Pho Love Story

Loan Le

For years, the Mais and the Nguyens have been at odds, having owned competing neighboring pho restaurants. Can Linh

and Bao find love in the midst of feuding families and complicated histories?

TEEN FICTION LE L  



When Can We Go Back to America? Voices of Japanese American Incarceration during WWII

Susan H. Kamei

Kamei—a professor, lawyer, and daughter of internees who was part of the legal battle for reparations—presents a comprehensive narrative history of Japanese Americans during World War II, drawn from the experiences of those who lived it.

TEEN D769.8.A6 K36 2021 



Yolk

Mary H.K. Choi

Jayne and her perfect older sister June moved from Seoul to San Antonio to New York together. Once inseparable, now they

don't speak. But when June is diagnosed with cancer, Jayne is the only possible choice of caretaker.

TEEN FICTION CHOI M  

MEMOIR



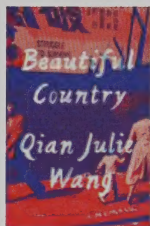
Antiman: A Hybrid Memoir

Rajiv Mohabir

Mohabir mixes prose, poetry, lyrics and free verse together in a searing exploration into the complex realities of his life as an "antiman"

(a Caribbean slur for queer) as he tries to find a place for himself in the world.

BIOG PS3613.O376 A58 2021x 



Beautiful Country

Qian Julie Wang

In this New York Times bestseller, Wang chronicles her early childhood in the 1990s as an undocumented immigrant in the

United States. Her family's struggles are described in visceral detail, making the Chinese name for America, "Mei Guo" or Beautiful Country, cruelly ironic.

BIOG F128.9.C5 W35 2021 



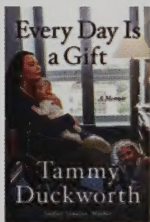
Crying in H Mart

Michelle Zauner

Zauner, lead singer of the indie band Japanese Breakfast, writes frankly about her complicated relationship with her mother,

her grief after her mother's death, and the power of Korean food as a link to her mother and cultural heritage.

BIOG ML420.Z3913 A3 2021 



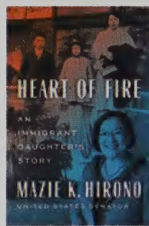
Every Day Is a Gift

Tammy Duckworth

Duckworth recounts her incredible life from childhood to her current position as junior US Senator from Illinois, describing

the many struggles she has fought, and how those experiences have made her an advocate for the underserved.

BIOG E840.8.D83 A3 2021x 



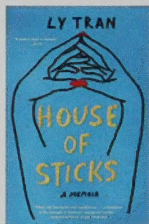
Heart of Fire: An Immigrant Daughter's Story

Mazie K. Hirono

Hirono, the first Asian American woman in the US Senate, chronicles her

early years of poverty as an immigrant in Hawaii, and her five decades rising through the political ranks in the state and federal levels.

BIOG E901.1 .H57 2021 



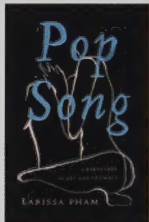
House of Sticks

Ly Tran

In her coming-of-age memoir, Tran takes an unflinching look at her family's experiences after immigrating to the United

States from Vietnam, including her father's PTSD and her own struggles with depression.

BIOG F128.9.V53 T73 2021 



Pop Song: Adventures in Art and Intimacy

Larissa Pham

Pham's deeply personal memoir is a wide-ranging exploration into her own

traumas and encounters with art as she writes of her sexual and relationship history—including a mysterious former love only referred to as "you."

BIOG PS3616.H35 A6 2021x 

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



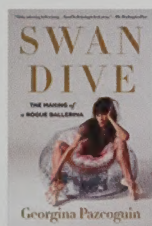
Seeing Ghosts

Kat Chow

Chow's mother's death from cancer is the "ghost" haunting her nonlinear memoir, exploring with both humor and vulnera-

bility the way she and her family processed, and were shaped by, grief.

BIOG E184.C5 C497 2021x 



Swan Dive: The Making of a Rogue Ballerina

Georgina Pazcoguin

The New York City Ballet's first Asian American soloist gives readers an

honest look at the world of elite ballet, without downplaying either her love for the art form or the traumas and microaggressions she has faced as a professional ballerina.

BIOG GV1785.P33 A3 2021 



Tastes Like War

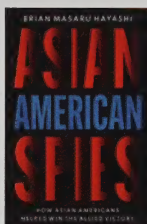
Grace M. Cho

In this dual memoir, Cho explores how trauma shaped both the life of her mother, a Korean war bride who suffered from

schizophrenia, and her own as a biracial Korean American girl raised in a racist American town.

BIOG E184.K6 C4733 2021 

NONFICTION



Asian American Spies: How Asian Americans Helped Win the Allied Victory

Brian Masaru Hayashi

This history of intrigue and espionage uses re-

cently declassified documents to explore the diverse roles played by Asian Americans in the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the modern CIA.

D810.S7 H38 2021 

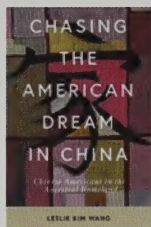


Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists

Chenxing Han
A collection of Asian American Buddhist voices challenges the white-

washed image of American Buddhism, upending conventional stereotypes and revealing a more diverse and representative world.

BQ732 .H36 2021 



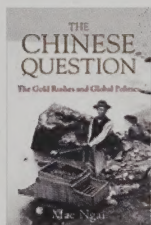
Chasing the American Dream in China: Chinese Americans in the Ancestral Homeland

Leslie Wang

UMass Boston professor

Wang examines the experiences of US-born Chinese Americans who "return" to China in search of career success, investigating the issues of identity, belonging, and multicultural maneuvering they face.

DS731.A54 W36 2021



The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics

Mae Ngai

This global history explores the connections between international

gold rushes, the Chinese diaspora, and the construction of race and racist stereotypes and policy in the 19th century West.

DS732 .N43 2021



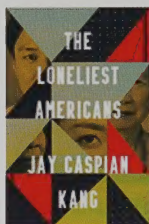
Concepcion: An Immigrant Family's Fortunes

Albert Samaha

Blending family history and international affairs, Samaha integrates his

family's emigration from the Philippines into the historical roots that forged their country and the geopolitical patterns that generated global migration.

BIOG F869.S39 F436 2021



The Loneliest Americans

Jay Caspian Kang

Using his family's own immigration as a lens, Kang explores facets of the Asian American

experience after the Hart-Cellar Act of 1965 opened the United States to Asian immigrants, probing the meaning of "Asian American" identity.

E184.A75 K36 2021



We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration

Frank Abe & Tamiko Nimura (illustrated by Ross Ishikawa & Matt Sasaki)

Through three painstakingly researched and strikingly illustrated stories of Japanese American resistance during World War II, activist Abe and historian Nimura shine light on a dark chapter in American history.

GRAPHIC WE HEREBY REFUSE

FOOD WRITING



Cook Real Hawai'i

Sheldon Simeon

Top Chef finalist Simeon offers his own family stories and highlights the influences of the many

cultures that have contributed to Hawaiian cooking. The recipes are accessible to mainlanders, complete with suggested substitutions.

TX724.5.H3 S55 2021

available as an audiobook

available as an eBook

graphic novel



Cooking at Home: Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying About Recipes (and Love My Microwave)

**David Chang and
Priya Krishna**

In their nontraditional, liberating cookbook, Momofuku founder David Chang and food reporter Priya Krishna make the daring choice not to specify exact ingredient amounts at the teaspoon-tablespoon level but offer cooking advice galore.

TX714 .C4629 2021

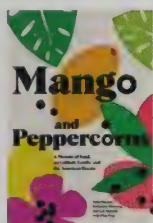


The Korean Vegan Cookbook: Reflections and Recipes from Omma's Kitchen

Joanne Lee Molinaro

Traditional and reimagined Korean recipes feature alongside nostalgic reflections by a first generation Korean American vegan TikTok star and lawyer.

TX724.5.K65 L48 2021



Mango and Peppercorns

**Tung Nguyen,
Katherine Manning,
Lyn Nguyen & Elisa
Ung**

A multi-voice memoir about the two women founders of an acclaimed Vietnamese restaurant in Miami's Little Havana. Peppered with recipes throughout, this is also a story of immigration, family, friendship, and culinary partnership.

BLOG TX724.5.V5 N6 2021

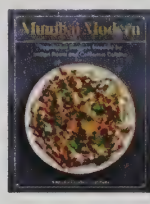


Mooncakes and Milk Bread: Sweet & Savory Recipes Inspired by Chinese Bakeries

Kristina Cho

A delectable read full of sweet and savory recipes inspired by Chinese bakeries, Cho's childhood in the Midwest, and her family's Cantonese cooking. The helpful narration covers everything from mooncake molds to moo shu wrappers.

TX724.5.C5 C565 2021x



Mumbai Modern: Vegetarian Recipes Inspired by Indian Roots and California Cuisine

Amisha Dodhi Gurbani

Jam Lab creator Gurbani, offers readers a delightfully narrated cookbook of more than 100 vegetarian recipes informed by Indian and Californian cuisine, with an emphasis on spices and fresh produce.

TX724.5.I4 G865 2021



The Pepper Thai Cookbook: Family Recipes from Everyone's Favorite Thai Mom

Pepper Teigen

"Pepper" (so nicknamed because she loves spicy food) offers readers eighty "mostly Thai-ish" recipes, along with anecdotes of growing up in Thailand that enrich the culinary experience.

TX724.5.T5 T45 2021x

POETRY & ART



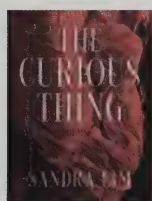
American Home

Sean Cho A.

Cho A.'s poems navigate the small delights and absurdities of life, as well as the more challenging topics of displacement

and identity. Throughout the chapbook, Cho A. explores what it means for America to be home.

PS3601.A213 A44 2021x



The Curious Thing

Sandra Lim

The Cambridge-based poet offers readers a collection that explores both the daily and existential.

Lim's poems express longing for love and life—despite their potential for disappointment—and the courage to leap into both.

PS3612.I467 C87 2021



Hung Liu: Portraits of Promised Lands

Hung Liu
(text by Dorothy Moss, Nancy Lim, Lucy R. Lippard, Elizabeth Partridge, and Philip Tinari)

This hefty book, published to accompany an exhibition of Liu's work at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, showcases her empathy for her subjects and distinct style of "weeping realism".

N7349.L536 A4 2021x



Imagine Us, the Swarm

In lyrical explorations that play with the physicality

of text and space on the page, Leung writes of migration, memory, xenophobia, familial history, and the possibilities of collective strength.

PS3612.E9217 I43 2021x



Peach State

Poet and professor Su, who hails from the "Peach State" of Georgia, offers meditations on lychee and black sesame, chicken

corn soup and kiwifruit. Her poems explore food, family, and identity in a range of forms.

PS3569.U13 P43 2021x

available as an audiobook

available as an eBook

graphic novel



The Sunflower Cast a Spell to Save Us from the Void

Jackie Wang

In her debut poetry collection, finalist for the Na-

tional Book Award, scholar/poet Wang presents dream-filled poems that explore the inevitable challenge of surviving as a person in the world.

PS3623.A45685 S86 2021x 



Yellow Rain: Poems

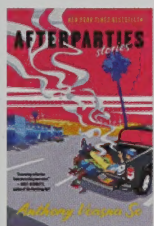
Mai Der Vang

Vang, daughter of Hmong refugees, integrates documentary sources into her lyrical poetry about the

lethal biological warfare of "yellow rain" against the Hmong in Laos and Vietnam and the subsequent American cover-up.

PS3622.A646 A6 2021x 

FICTION

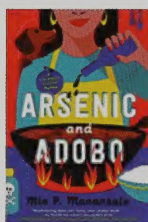


Afterparties: Stories

Anthony Veasna So

So's debut short story collection, published posthumously, offers both humor and sharp insight into the Cambodian immigrant community in the United States as they bear the inherited weight of the Khmer Rouge genocide.

FICTION SO A  



Arsenic and Adobo

Mia P. Manansala

Returning home to her Tita Rosie's restaurant after a bad breakup, Lila is shocked to see her ex, a notoriously nasty food

critic—and more shocked when he dies moments later! Now Lila must crack the case before the murder is pinned on her.

MYSTERY MANANSALA M  



The Bad Muslim Discount

Syed Masood

When a homesick Pakistani immigrant collides in a chance meeting with a young woman who

barely escaped from war-torn Baghdad, their contradictory, intertwined fates will rock their community, and families, to their core.

FICTION MASOOD S  



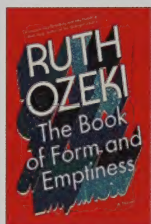
The Balance Tips

Joy Huang-Iris

When 25-year-old Fay Goodson, a queer, multi-racial woman, loses her Taiwanese grandfather, her grandmother moves

to America, forcing Fay, her mother, and her aunt to confront unsettling truths about their family and each other.

FICTION STOFFERS J 



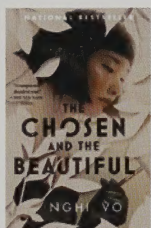
The Book of Form and Emptiness

Ruth Ozeki

After the sudden death of his beloved father, Benny begins to hear voices. As they grow louder, he fol-

lows them to the library, where he meets his very own Book, who teaches him to listen to the things that truly matter.

FICTION OZEKI R  



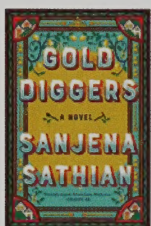
The Chosen and the Beautiful

Nghi Vo

Reimagining The Great Gatsby's Jordan Baker as a queer Vietnamese adoptee and magician,

Vo reinvents this classic American novel as a coming-of-age story full of magic, mystery, and glittering excess.

SCIFI FANTASY VO N  



Gold Diggers

Sanjena Sathian

As neighboring teens Neil and Anita struggle to meet the stereotypically high expectations of their community, revelations

regarding the curious properties of a gold-infused elixir disrupt their lives.

FICTION SATHIAN S  



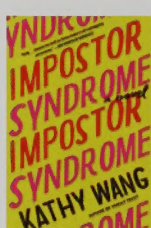
The Good Asian: Volume 1

Pornsak Pichetshote

Edison Harki is a haunted, self-loathing Chinese-American detective on the trail of a killer in

1936 Chinatown: a world full of darkness, murder, corrupt police, and moral ambiguity.

TEEN GRAPHIC GOOD ASIAN  



Impostor Syndrome

Kathy Wang

A sharp examination of women in the fiercely competitive world of Silicon Valley, told through the eyes of Julia, COO

and Russian intelligence agent, and Alice, a first generation Chinese American working hard to rise in the tech world.

FICTION WANG K  



My Sweet Girl

Amanda Jayatissa

Ever since she was adopted from a Sri Lankan orphanage, Paloma has had the best of everything. Now thirty, and

recently cut off from her parents, she will soon learn that your past can always catch up to you.

FICTION JAYATISSA A 

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



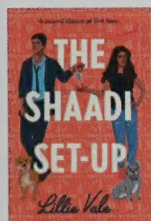
On Location

Sarah Echavarre Smith

After finally getting the green light to produce her dream project, Alia is dismayed to show up on set and come face-to-face

with her ex. But when sabotage strikes, will he help her save the show?

ROMANCE SMITH S 



The Shaadi Set-Up

Lillie Vale

Rita hopes that matching with her boyfriend Neil on the matchmaking website MyShaadi.com will finally convince her mother to

accept him. Instead, the website's algorithm pairs her with her high school ex!

ROMANCE VALE L  



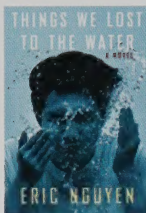
A Song Everlasting

Ha Jin

Chinese singer Yao Tian becomes an exile after standing up for his artistic integrity. As Tian works to find his way in the

United States, he must face the possibility of never being able to return to his country again.

FICTION JIN H L  



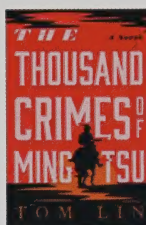
Things We Lost to the Water

Eric Nguyen

Hương leaves Vietnam and arrives in New Orleans with her two young sons, leaving behind her

husband Công. Settling into their new lives, they cope in different ways with the realization they will never see Công again—until disaster strikes.

FICTION NGUYEN E  



The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu

Tom Lin

Infused with magic realism, this novel reimagines the classic western through the eyes of a Chi-

nese American assassin on a quest for revenge against the men who kidnapped his wife and sentenced him to years of forced labor.

FICTION LIN T  

Boston Public Library

Asian/Pacific American

Heritage Month

Booklist | 2022

The Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month booklist is a list of recent books concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month each year.



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